CLAIMS

1. A process for operating multiple certification server processors in a network providing certification services to client processors in communication with said network comprising the steps of:

    (a)   receiving a request from a first of said client processors at a second of said certification server processors acting as a delegate;

    (b)   said delegate processing said client request and forwarding a corresponding server request to all certification server processors;

    (c)   upon receiving responses from a quorum of certification server processors, said delegate (1) constructing a response to said client; (2) invoking a threshold signature protocol to sign said client response; and (3) forwarding said signed client response to said first client processor.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the processing of step (b) comprises the construction of an update request including a new certificate using said threshold signature protocol to sign said certificate.

3. The process of claim 1 wherein said server response include serially-numbered certificates and construction of said response

to said client includes selection of the certificate with a

highest serial number.